

# Tab 9

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**From:** Bengivenga, Mike  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 08, 2003 10:34 AM  
**To:** Chinery, Bob  
**Cc:** Conklin, Kelly  
**Subject:** Possible new ephedra alternative

Bob,

I was at Supply Side East on Tuesday looking for more new ingredients and may have come across a winner. The product is called Vitera and I had already briefly spoken to you about it but I may have been misinformed. I was given new information that this is not an ephedrine alkaloid like I was originally told. You do get the up feeling and the weight loss based on the initial studies but without all of the negative side effects. The company actually tried to kill the rats in a safety study but the product at 32 mg per kilogram did not negatively affect any of the animals. This same dosage was given in Ma Huang equalling the 32 mg per kilogram of ephedra and every rat died. I have tried the product at a level that would be equal to 20 mg of ephedra and felt the up without the shakey jittery feelings. It definitely has the up of ephedra. I mixed it with caffeine to mimic the RFA-1 just to see the effects and I am impressed so far.

I am awaiting more information from a supplier that claims this is absolutely not ephedra or ephedrine alkaloids. If this is true, we may have an RFA-1 replacement. The weight loss was practically identical to ephedra. I hope to have all of the additional information within the next day or so.

Mike